CAPT. CLARK'S PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY DAYS

hardy people who three-quarters of a dian was paddling. century ago came to subdue the un- "The next, during 1835 or '36, was there? Our country was more beauti- tribe had been removed to Indian Ter- winter the Clark family spent here. broken wilds that then constituted this Col. William Davenport, of the U. S. ful, better timber, with coal in sight in ritory. Late in life a correspondence was They lived in Rock Island and George part of the northwest.

so long ago to the average person. To Yet people seem to have gotten the im- later; no wire fencing. Thus our timbeen born and raised here the civil- a colonel, which he never was, and, as ization of Rock Island county seems a I said, the city was named for Col. respectably ancient thing-associated William Davenport. as it were, with the very hills and the "Earlier still (in the '30's), Marmafamiliar old Mississippi. But for a duke Davenport, the Indian agent, setman in the full possession of his facul- tied on Rock Island in 1832, and afterties to tell of having lived and toiled wards on Credit island, and was the here when our grandfathers were boys father of Capt. A. H. Davenport, of Le in some far off state or country, when Claire. the gnarled old trees that we know of in the forests were saplings, when 8th United States infantry, Col. R. C. there were no cities, towns, railways Nichols in command, was sent up the or even wagon roads, nothing in fact river to establish a fort on or near the that we now see except the rugged hills and the Father of Waters, and matter of history before my time. the Indians still hunted and fished in their wild state; hearing these things told of as we are accustomed to tell vexed by many obstacles. The first of of Rock Island when there were no these three years I spent in sight of paved streets or the building of the Davenport, with occasional trips across first pavilion on the brow of Black the river. I remember well when there Hawk Watch Tower, seems incredi- was no white family on the Iowa side.

In Remarkable Man.

Where is there another like him? My father went to the lowa side, tak-How many of us will be 50 years hence ing me with him, and bought the pony. as he is now, vigorous, erect, quick "Do you ask how the Indian deliverto hear and see and with a memory ed the pony to the Illinois side? He that still holds in firm grasp places took a rawhide lasso, tied it around the and dates, names, faces and manner pony's neck, and the Indian paddled of speech of happenings and people of across the river, taking his time to do lots to Daniel Webster, Henry Clark. the present day? But Capt. Clark does so, and the pony swam where he could J. C. Calhoun, Gen. George W. Jones not live in the past, highly as he not walk. The spot of starting was prizes the associations of his youth about the foot of Brady street, landing the lots. Rockport died a natural and early manhood. He takes a keen about where Eighteenth street is at interest in present day affairs and is Rock Island. as ready to converse about them as "In the year 1828 Hon. John W. Spenhe is about those of 50, 60 or 70 years cer, John Brasher and William Carr

at all. Too often that which has been Yet Capt. Clark does not feel that !t county, Ill. is his mission to controvert save where he has been asked to do so and where built a hewn log house at the creek, he has facts at his command to leave and at the west end of your town (Anno room for doubt. He does not ask dalusia), in the fall of 1832. The logs that his memory be accepted unsup- used now form the west half of Henry ported as against that which the mys- Springmeier's residence, at Buffalo. terious power of ink and type has having been transported on the ice (we made gospel in the mind of the aver- really had ice in those days, when the age person. *

In the preparation of historical mat- of men). ter in Rock Island county for many years the memory of the late Benjamin Coble was relied upon implicitly. Mr. Goble was a wonderful man and Vandruff, on Vandruff's island, at the he did great service in recalling inci- foot of Black Hawk Tower, and Erasdents of the pioneer days. He came tus Dennison, at the "Upper Yellow here in 1829. Capt. Clark had spen! Banks," now New Boston, distant about two winters here at that time.

GOES BACK TO THE YEAR 1827.

Interestingly Written Account of Early Struggles of Pioneer Settlers.

At Andalusta Tuesday evening Capt Clark presented a manuscript to be come part of the records of the Me morial association dealing with the early settlement of Andalusia in the fellowing language:

"I take quite an interest in old time and history, and hope you will not think me boastful when saying that I know more about the early settlement of Rock Island county and your neighborhood, and people, than anyone else now living, my father's family settling where the city of Rock Island now is in Steubenville, Ohio, to return in the in the summer of 1827. I will begin spring with their families. My fath by quoting a few lines from an article er sent by them for 500 apple trees. taken from an old newspaper:

'There were scant postal facilities In 1827, when the boy Clark (myself) with them the elder McNutt, and his first went upon the Island (Fort Arm- son John, a carpenter, Moses Titteringstrong). Mail was obtained from Ga- ton as well as Charles and two other lens, about 100 miles away, by sending brothers, with their families, also two soldiers on foot to that place. The Charles and Harry Eberhart with their news of President Jackson's election in families and Adolph Dunlap who was 1828 was not received until late in De- a noted gunsmith. All of these proved cember, although the election had tak- excellent people, not a black sheep en place in August, and then by messenger service, the messenger being the Hon. John W. Spencer, requiring a then Parmenters settled just west of

week for the trip." log house on the river bank, near tory of what is now Andalusia. where the wagon bridge from the island strikes the Rock Island shore. which stood there until after the completion of the C. R. I. & P. railroad. in 1854. No doubt many old citizens of

Rock Island will remember it. Davesport First White.

"The first paleface I remember se ing, outside of my own family, was first settlers of Scott, Muscatine, Cedar the river and cut some wild hay. The days." George Davenport. He was the first white settler in the vicinity of Rock Hawk's purchase here. Island. There were three Davenport families, not at all connected-all liv- Wright and family, whom we ferried distinctly when his father carried him He carries the scar to this day, a dent so it would "keep," as rekindling it when the consent of the bride had ing on Rock island—the others being over in 1836. I helped to do so my from the gang plank of the small river in his head. He and some indian boys was no small matter when matches been signified he pronounced the job George Marmaduke and Col. William self. Mr. and Mrs. Wright were the steamer on which the trip was made were competing in jumping. Moses were unknown. Davenport. One was the George I grandparents of our worthy friend, and placed him down on shore in Keokuk was among them and he had a have just named, the Indian trader, and Supervising Secretary R. E. Reede the midst of a crowd of a hundred heavy "squaw" hoe used in cultivatlocated where the old trading house who is present tonight, and is the destill remains on the government isl- cendant of worthy people. and. Him I remember very well. He

days by Capt. W. L. Clark, of Buffalo, fleshy, florid of face, light complexion; ferry was below the mouth of Rock Clark for a number of years had no latter's hear and a slight fracture of thing had to be done or the writing brought to Buffalo at the request of lowa, before the Andalusia Memorial a typical Englishman; wore long hair river, thus saving crossing Rock river playmates but the Indian children and the skull resulted. association last Tuesday evening the hanging down his back, which made a and sloughs to reach Black Hawk's with these he was on the best of terms. younger generation who heard him vivid impression upon my youthful purchase. had an opportunity which in all likeli-mind. The first time I saw him he was "Father could have claimed where swam, fished and hunted with them. hood few of them will have again of lying back, his hair floating in the wa- Davenport now is, below what is now One of his closest friends was Moses hearing at first hand the story of the ter, while he steered a canoe an In- Harrison street, the Le Claire reserva- Keokuk, the chief who later attained

army, stationed at Fort Armstrong, in many of the creeks, As merely an experience it is uni-command. This was the man for que to hear one talk who saw things whom the city of Davenport was nam- for many years, no pine lumber being boyhood friend Capt. Clark to put up around," and for money consideration seen a great many travelers in the as they were in that time that seems ed, he being the only Col. Davenport. run down the river until many years among his most precious possessions hay but he had not expected he would they were usually paid one dollar a early days," said he, "who got all the young or the middle aged who have pression that the trader, George, was, ber was in demand.

"It was in September, 1815, that the Island of Rock island. But this is a Life in '27, '28 and '29

"Life during 1827, 1828 and 1829 was The next year, 1828, trade opened with the Indians across the river. A buck And what a man is Capt. Ciark. came over and wanted to sell a pony.

came; and in the spring of 1829 Judge Much of our local history, Capt. Pense and family, Wallis Pense, Hen-Clark tells us, has been badly written ry Wells and family, all of whom were and much more has not been written frightened away by the Indians and Indian traders. They all recorded has been devoted to particu-tled on Henderson river, four miles lar persons and things, as the pecun-northeast of the "Lower Yellow iary interests of the writer led him. Banks," now Oquawka, Henderson

Later my father's family came an old river was unspoiled by the hands

Only House in 35 Miles.

"At the time my father built, his was the only house between that of Joshua 30 to 35 miles from each other.

"The next house was built by Hackley Sams, at Sulphur Springs, in the fum, and occupied by his family. Next The territory of Michigan, now state;

Dan and John Edgington came to the country and stopped some time with state of Iowa, and only moved one Edgington went to Quincy on the little steamer 'Adventurer,' to enter their lands of the government

"Later they all left for their home

"In the spring of 1835 they charter ed a boat on the Ohio river, bringing among them.

"A little later James Robinson came. him, and here I will close this line of "My father built, in 1828, a double thought, to give you more of the his-

Andalusia's Beginning.

and Linn counties crossing into Black family was brought along on the trio Probably the narrowest escape that the inside, might become ignited and

"You will see that Monmonth is 40 was a man of medium height, 5 feet 8 niles due south and Dubuque 75 miles

tion being above that. But why go

Might Have Been Conital.

"Buffalo would have been the county seat of Scott county had it not been for the trickery of the territorial legislature, in subdividing Des Moines county, throwing Buffalo only three miles from the Muscatine county line. My father after removing to Black Hawk's purchase in 1833, continued to run the ferry and about 1836 sold to Col. Stevenson, W. S. Hamilton and Mr. Whiteside, of Galena, Ill., his entire interest excepting the fraction lying in front of your town, and two lots lying where Frank Eby (I think) built his store, across the street and east of your city hall and the ferry franchise for \$17,000 These men with others bought p t of the interest of Jonah Case and J. W. Spencer and laid out the town of Stevenson, afterwards Rock Island. They also laid out the town of Rockport, which run east up to the Buffum creek, west nearly one-half mile below the sulphur springs, south over the hills at least a mile from the river. They had it platted in a most gorgeous and attractive manner. They took the map to Washington city where they sold many thousands of dollars worth of town and others, none of whom ever saw death and after an uninterrupted sleep of many years, was sold for taxes. bought by Napoleon Bonapart Buford. laid out in town lots, and named Andalusia. The younger people perhaps do not know whom the above named gentleman is, but old settlers remem-

ber him as a citizen of Rock Island. "Col. Stevenson, Messrs. Hamilton and Whiteside joined with George Davenport and laid out a very large town site, where the town of Sears now is and called it Rock Island City, but this was neither a financial success nor a swindle for lack of pur-

chasers of lots. Gave Cemetery Site.

"Before selling his land at Andalus ia my father gave sufficient ground for the cemetery in which the firs burial was that of Giles Gabbert, son of Daniel Gabbert, whom my father had living there to run the ferry.

"This by omitting many items brings us up to the days of Samuel Kenworthy, who came in 1841, and little later Dr. Andrew Bowman and many others, that can tell you much better than I of more recent events.

"Before closing I am asked to state as a peculiar feature that during a long life, I have lived in the Louisspring of 1834. Next was that of John lana purchase, state of Illinois, (I can afterwards bought by Jonathan Buf- only four years older than myself). came the place, one-half mile east of territory of Wisconsin, now state; ter "The same fall, 1834, Dunlap and ritory of Minnesota, now state; Black to look at lands north of where Edg. friend whose oldest son was born in remaining on the ground, while John son territory, third in Iowa territory, Burlington, Iowa."

Only Playmates Were Young Savages Customs of Sacs and Foxes.

After the reading of the manuscript old resident was sufficient to bring of the Winnebagos were deceived. forth experiences and anecdotes that were highly entertaining.

Among other things the manner in which the Clark family happened to

boat land. Only Indian Playmates

He learned their language and ran. considerable prominence when the "We did our fencing with split rails were exchanged. The likeness of his greatly in relieving their distress, He

the Indians was one named Messico.



CAPT. W. L. CLARK,

Black Hawk war Capt. Clark Sr. led company of soldiers against the Sacs and Foxes and was the first to engage them at the battle of Wisconsin Heigi. While the warriors were maneuvering to cover the retreat of their children and squaws Capt. Clark shot Messico. After the battle he approached the Indian and found that four bullets had penetrated his body. The wounds were fatal and the news of his death was one of the saddest messages that the younger Clark ever received.

When the Clark family lived on what is now Sylvan water in the vicinity of the Cable residence the Sacs and Foxes in the fall before starting out on their hunting expeditions would take their cances around from Rock river and filling them with stones sink them in the slough near the cabin. This was done to hide them so that the Winnebagos, whom the captain describes as a thieving tribe, could not find them and take them away. The canoes were usually made of walnut logs hollowed out with fire. Occasionally a birch bark canoe from the north was found among them.

Were Thrifty Tribe.

The Sacs and Foxes were indus trious, for Indians, and unusually Vanatta, during the fall of 1834, and almost say territory since the state is provident. From the Clark cabin to the mouth of Rock river was a cultivated field in which the squaws raised 'squaw" corn, beans, etc. Until a few years ago in the unbroken pastures Hawk's purchase, lowa territory and Capt. Clark stated he could find the hills in which the corn was planted, my father, who went with them over mile. And I can add that I have a the ground being ridged up in working it. When the tribe went away on a ington now is, which they located, two Michigan territory, second in Wiscon- hunt the greatest precautions were Buffalo, and the school house was three Here they spent the night secure from taken to prevent the Winnepagos from fourth in state of lowa, all being born getting the corn and beans that had interior. The difficulties in the way of the troops camped out in the open bein the same log cabin. The name of been harvested. To save this precious getting an education were so great tween the officers and where the enmy friend was "Timber" Woods, of supply it was placed in sacks woven from the bark of the linn or basswood tree. Then holes four or five feet deep tained a smattering of the barest rudi-EXPERIENCES WITH THE INDIANS were dug in the ground, leaves were ments. The particular school house be used for a pig pen. placed in the bottom and the sacks referred to was of logs, about 14 by were put in. This was then covered 14, with clapboard roof and with mud with more leaves, brush and grass to plastered in the cracks of the walls. keep the water from reaching the Small apertures covered with oiled pathe speaker supplemented it with off- grain, then a thin layer of earth was per served for windows. The floor was hand reminiscences and answers to in- placed on it and more leaves were made of "puncheons," or logs split, quiries, bringing out things that the scattered, the natural appearance of with the face up and the irregularities John Brasher and Jane Case, who were audience particularly wished to learn the surface being artificially produced hewed down. The seats were punchabout. The mention of the name of an with such nicety that the prying eyes cons with legs in them, and the desks

Of the Indians were told many in- the white boy would land. The back ed. There were no tame geese and

FIRST WINTER WAS HARD ONE.

Clarks Lived on Rations of Soldiers

opened with Keokuk and photographs Davenport, the trader, did not assist again obtainable. ed to the urgent request of an enter- him here for the same reason that he to have an engraving made. That was to settle near him. He knew that with large sum of money to buy govern- mals about here it was before my time. the coming of the whites the Indians ment land with and one day about the Another of his early friends among upon whom he depended on to add to his fortune would go. To make the hint more pointed he refused absolutely to er. Years after it was learned that sell the Clarks anything to eat and starvation stared them in the face.

Happily, they found a way out of the difficulty. This story has been told but it will bear repeating. Capt. Clark told it at Andalusia.

In doing so he referred to the location of Black Hawk cave that everyone has heard at one time led back under the rocky ledge near the west end of Rock island. This cave, the speaker stated, was not at the point of the island, but opened out on the river at the place where the north abutment of the Rock Island bridge now is. It extended back some distance into the island and took a passive, though very important part in saving the Clarks from starvation that winter.

Brought Barrel of Whisky.

Late in the fall the Black Rover, a little steamer commanded by Capt. Otis Runnells came down from a trip to Galena and tied up for the winter. the captain making his home with the Clarks. Now Capt. Runnells had with him a barrel of whisky and there were soldiers at Fort Armstrong. With the cave, the soldiers and the whisky in troduced the average person will have little difficulty in making a reasonably accurate guess as to how the Clark family were saved from starvation. The mouth of the cave was within the fort and there was another end he island and the soldiers knew all about it. As everyone is aware sol diers are furnished provisions, ordinarily all they can eat and more, by the government. They are forbidden to dispose of their food, of course, and guards are kept about all posts whose duty it is to see that forbidden articles are not carried away and that the gar rison does not leave without permission. But with the cave the proposi tion was easy. With judicious hus banding by means of a round price demanded by Capt, Runnells, the sol diers had whisky all winter and the

Clarks had substantial fare. The cave is undoubtedly still there but one end is sealed by the bridge abutment and the other, if it was not also closed by natural means, no doubt was taken care of by some commander of the island who realized that such a refuge was a bad thing to have so close to a government post and closed it up.

TRIALS OF EARLY SCHOOL LIFE.

Crude Structure Was Three Miles Away

Through the Woods. Not the least interesting of the remconnected with the first school that the family lived on the present site of saplings, perhaps 10 or 12 feet square. miles back through the forest in the that the youngster of those days might consider himself fortunate if he ob- Capt. Clark, then a boy, went with "I have seen the Winnebagos armed For writing desks, more puncheons where the present road to the tower with muskrat spears, long, sharp in- were placed on pins that were driven struments of their own make that they into holes bored in the logs of the used to prod in muskrat houses and walls. The pupils sat on the long seats come to Rock Island was told. It was kill the animals, going about poking with the "desks" on the side toward Clark is fond of telling about was perthe original intention to settle at Fort into the ground where they thought the middle of the room and to write Edwards, as the site of the present they might find buried grain," said they merely turned about, putting their town of Warsaw was then known. the captain in telling of it. "Some feet over on the other side of the seats. tice of the peace. John Cooper and There the Clarks did stop and Capt. times they would find what they were The big boys took turns week about

and remained here from that time on. Capt Clark had in all his dealings with burn the house when it was left alone.

Pens From Owl Quills

Indians, who had gathered to see the ing crops. Just as young Clark jump of wild geese were used, and Capt. ed Keokuk was bringing down the hoe Clark told of one direful occasion on half married. to mark the place where he expected which the supply of quills was exhaust-

it. Quills from its wings served the to contend with. purpose till those from geese were

end of the school term the money and the schoolmaster disappeared togeth- TIME TO BEGIN TO LOOK the same spring he had entered some 2,000 acres of land in an interior county of the state of Iowa. He became a man | Crop Report for Illinois Says There of wealth and his descendants are now respected and well-to-do residents of the same community. There was never any attempt at prosecution.

A MORMON COLONY CAME.

Tried to Buy Site to Erect a Temple at Buffalo During Forties.

It is not generally known nowadays latter '40's to establish a Mormon town deficiency approximating four degrees. number of that faith took up their reseral of the professed "spiritual wives" the descendants of these people are still living in the vicinity. The greater number, however, left before 1850. Followers of the faith made overtures mpressed with the terms offered, which involved little of the money of er easier to supply, no doubt, from the would-be purchaser's point of view. So

the deal fell through. These Mormons professed to hold tion of the crop being marketable. back somewhere among the brush of frequent communication with the unseen powers and often told Capt. Clar what they claimed to have seen and heard. On one occasion, he related, an elder assured him that at a point near certain well-known whiteoak stump in angel had appeared and offered him his choice of two boxes, one containing gold and the other knowledge. Of course he elected to take the knowledge, and asked the captain what he would have done under similar circumstances. "Well," answered the captain, reflectively, after taking a rapid invenory of the other's augmented mental equipment, "it seems to me I would Standards on Better American Roads at least have split them up and taken half of each."

SOME MISTAKES IN HISTORY.

Fort Told of As Being Built at Ande

lusin Was Unpretentions Affair. have been erected at Andalusia by and safety unknown in this country. an expedition against the Indians. Capt. Clark declares positively that to a standard of safety which is fully there was no fort there, though the as high as the English, while the com-The officers caused to be built for theminiscences told by Capt. Clark were selves on the west bank of the east the water. creek that passes through the present relator attended. That was when the corporate limits, a pen of blackjack the attacks of lurking savages, while emy was supposed to be. Afterward is powerless to do anything without the some men and removed the "fort" to of such a system the salient feature is

Couple of Early Marriages.

Capt. Clark also says the records are at fault in stating that the first marriage in Rock Island county was performed in 1840. The principals in the first ceremony, he recalls, were united in 1839 at the home of John Spencer, who lived at the west foot of the same with the legs a little longer. Black Hawk Watch Tower, about leaves the Ninth street road. The bride was the daughter of Jonah Case.

Another wedding party that Capt. formed by the late Daniel Edgington, who was then a young man and a jus-Jane Fay were the contracting parties. "My father, Capt. B. W. Clark enter- Benjamin Clark bought an interest in looking for and then when the Sacs building fires mornings. The last thing They resided in Buffalo, which was ed, I think, 160 acres, part being the a herd of cattle which was pastured and Foxes came back they found all before leaving the school house in the then in an unorganized territory and present town, and placed it under in the bottoms opposite Quincy, their trouble had been for nothing, evening one of the boys was always far from a place where a license could fence and plow. After looking the George Davenport, the Indian trader. The method that the Indians used in sent to peer up the chimney over the be procured. So the license was taken ground all over he established 'Clark who was at that time already located keeping track of the location of their fireplace and be sure that there was out in Rock Island county and the ferry, which became the most noted at Rock Island, learned of the elder own stores were not considered re no fire in it, there being danger that couple were married on this side of the ferry above St. Louis, nearly all of the Clark and engaged him to come up markable in the woodcraft of those the flue, which was built of sticks laid river, Mr. Edgington being called upon crosswise and plastered with clay on to tie the knot. The justice had never performed a ceremony and was more or less nervous. Thus it happened Among these, we will name Edward The present Capt. Clark remembers the Indians was purely an accident. The fire itself was carefully covered up that he forgot to ask all questions, and done without propounding the usual queries to the groom. Mr. Cooper, who recalled the fact that he had been but

> Beginning of Horticulture. The 500 apple trees that in the man- gerous.

In the relation of tales of pioneer inches, squarely built, inclined to due north, with no cross lots, and the teresting things. In his boyhood Capt. of the hoe came down on the top of the wild ones were out of season. Some- uscript are mentioned as having been lessons would have to be given up. So Capt. Benjamin Clark by a party rea hunt was organized on a Saturday, turning with their families from Ohio. The big boys went out to see if they were distributed and grew into the could kill a wild turkey. But no tur- first orchards in this vicinity. They key could they find, either. It seemed were of hardy stock and for many years that the fates were against them. Fin- bore great crops, having few of the Privations were the rule the first ally they ran across an owl and killed enemies that the fruit nowadays has

Never Saw a Buffalo.

Asked concerning the buffalo, of The school teachers "boarded bison, Capt. Clark laughed, "I have till in a moment of weakness he yield. stay in these parts. He did not want pupil for each term. Capt, Clark's first ready as soon as they had crossed the teacher, he declared, became rich at Mississippi river to go out and kill prising newspaper man and gave it up did not want any other white families that. The elder Clark had saved a buffalo. If there were any of these ani-I never saw one."

FOR FRUIT BUD DAMAGE

Has Been None at Present

Time. The U.S. department of argiculture special crop bulletin for the month

of January in Illinois is as follows: Cold periods obtained on the 10th 14th, and the 24th to 26th, the latter being the severest, zero temperature and lower occurring in all sections of the state. The mean temperature was that there was an attempt made in the below the seasonal average, the daily at Buffalo. A site was laid out and a A sleet storm of unusual severity occurred on the 12th, the precipitation idence there. Among them were sev- freezing into a covering of ice. The average precipitation was deficient in of the leader, Joseph Smith. Some of the northern slightly above normal in the central, and above normal in the southern district.

Many correspondents report that it is difficult to determine the condition to purchase the site of the present of wheat at this time a good portion home of Capt. Clark for the erection of the crop being covered with ice and of a temple. The owner was quite snow. Opinion, however, is freely exwilling to sell, but was not favorably pressed, that probably considerable damage has ensued. The plant entered winter mostly in a weakly state, he realm and a great deal of promis- due to adverse fall conditions, and had ed spiritual reward, a commodity rath- not attained sufficient vapor to withstand the rigors of severe weather.

> Corn maintains an excellent condition, is grading well, a large propor-

> Meagre reports indicate an average winter condition of rye. Live stock is reported generally to be in a healthy condition and feed is

plentiful Fruit buds apparently have not been damages to any extent.

Apples are of inferior quality and are not keeping well. Some complaint is made of potatoes rotting in storage.

WILLIAM G. BURNS. Section Director.

RAILWAY SAFETY.

as High as In England. American railways have recently come in for considerable unfavorable criticism on account of the number of serious accidents in some of the less thickly populated districts of the United States, while at the same time One of the histories of Rock Island English roads have been praised as county tells of a fort that was said to having attained a combination of speed Gen, "Granny" Atkinson when he led As a matter of fact, many American railroads are gradually being brought roops camped there once over night. fort of passengers is given far more attention here than on the other side of

From the American standpoint safe

railroading is primarily dependent on a system of signals which are practically infallible. This is attained by a confbination of automatic machinery and consent of the other. In the operation the division of the road into short sections or "blocks" by means of signals worked primarily by an electrical connection with the rails. On the New Haven system, for instance, which has built up a line of 233 miles from Boston to New York that complies with all the requirements found necessary in American experience for safety, these blocks are from half a mile to four miles in length. A train cannot enter one of them until the preceding train has left it, a fact indicated by the rising of an automatic semaphore at its further end, which protects the next block ahead. When this second signal arm points to danger, and not before, the operator in the signal tower that covers that section of the line car lower the semaphore that is holding back the second train. The system is so arranged that the normal position of all semaphores is at danger and were the towerman a maniac be could do no harm beyond neglecting to lower a signal at the proper time to let approaching trains through. He might tie up all traffic on the road in this way, but he could cause no accidents.

While signal systems, roadbeds and bridges have been brought as near perfection as ingenuity can bring them, the safety of others than their passengers is not neglected by the well managed railroads. Between New York and New Haven, for example, a distance of seventy-three miles, there are no grade crossings at all and between New Haven and New London there are only five, none of which is considered dan-